



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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Allen Bill To Help College Marinas Sailing Through House

LANSING – Community colleges, colleges and universities will be eligible to receive funds from the Waterways Commission for marinas, harbors of refuge or public access sites under legislation sponsored by Senator Jason Allen, R-Traverse City. The bill, Senate Bill 150, received unanimous support today in the House Great Lakes & Tourism Committee chaired by David Palsrok, R-Manistee, as it did in the Senate.

“Developing creative solutions to meet the needs of Michigan boaters is crucial in a time when Michigan is enduring fiscal challenges,” said Allen. “Senate Bill 150 will foster our aquatic research and maritime programs at higher educational institutions, while creating additional public access points to Michigan’s pristine waters. Everyone wins under this legislation.”

SB 150 provides an additional outlet for institutions of higher education to develop capital maritime projects. The marinas or harbors of refuge created through the use of the funds would provide access for vessels owned or operated by the college or university and provide opportunities for public access. Training vessels, such as the *State of Michigan* at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, would benefit through this project by developing or enhancing the marina where these ships dock.

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“There are institutions of higher education, like Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, that are willing and able to provide the community with a harbor of refuge or marina and as a state government we need to be supportive of these endeavors,” said Representative Howard Walker, R-Traverse City who testified in support of Allen’s bill.

“The enactment of Senate Bill 150 will have a tremendous impact on colleges across the state, from NMC in Traverse City to North Central Michigan College in Petoskey to Alpena Community College,” Allen said.

Admiral John Tanner, Superintendent of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, attended the committee hearing and testified in support of Allen’s legislation with Walker.

Photo Advisory: A downloadable photograph of Senator Allen, R-Traverse City, with Representative Howard C. Walker, R-Traverse City and Admiral John Tanner is available on the Senate Majority Photowire, located at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/>.

Audio Advisory: Audio clips of Senator Jason Allen (Sen Allen.mp3) are attached to the email and also available on the internet at <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/audiowire/> or by phone at (517) 373-4000.